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## OUR LIBRARY RESOURCES AS SHOWN BY SOME GOVERNMENT NEEDS IN THE WAR

BY ANDREW KEOGH, *Librarian, Yale University Library*

President Bishop has asked me to give some account of the library side of the government office named the Inquiry, because he thinks it a matter of professional interest.

I shall say little of the personnel of the Inquiry, since there are two histories of the organization in preparation—one for the American Geographical Society, under the supervision of its director, Dr. Bowman, and the other for the War Department, by the history board of the War Plans Division of the general staff. It is only necessary now to say that in September, 1917, Colonel House was authorized by President Wilson to collect and organize data that might be useful at the eventual peace conference; that he promptly established in New York an office which was later called the Inquiry, under the directorship of President Mezes; that by the time the armistice was signed more than 150 American scholars had contributed reports on matters in which they were specialists; that representatives of the nations affected had come for conference with the officers and specialists of the bureau; that there was frequent exchange of material and of views between the Inquiry and similar bureaus abroad, especially those of France and England; that the Department of State, the Military Intelligence Division of the general staff, the National Research Council, the National Board for Historical Service, the Department of Commerce, the Tariff Commission, the War Colleges, and many other official and unofficial organizations, American and foreign, coöperated in the work; that after thirteen months the material gathered, amounting to several tons in weight, was placed on board the George Washington to travel overseas with the President on December 4, 1918; and that all the information gathered had been so carefully clas-

sified and indexed that it was instantly available.

The location of the office of the organization was a difficult problem, but it was finally solved by accepting the offer of the American Geographical Society to place its building and most of its staff at the disposal of the Inquiry. The society's building is convenient of access and yet not too public; it houses a library and an organization intended for research workers; and it provided a place where confidential documents and maps were safe. From November 10, 1917, the work of the Inquiry was carried on at Broadway and 156th street under guard night and day.\*

At first the scope of the Inquiry was very wide, but with the establishment or development of other government bureaus to look after certain topics, such as strategy or international law, the work of the Inquiry became more intensive, until at last it was centered on territorial and economic matters. The main areas in which research was conducted were of course determined by the war itself, but special studies were made of disputed areas, or of local conditions that were the sources of political antagonisms. A typical study of a country included its political and diplomatic history, its economics, its geography, and its education. The historian reported on historic rights, including suffrage laws; on religious developments and customs; on subordinate nationalities; on the rights of minority peoples in composite populations; on recent political history as related to diplomacy and treaties; and on public law and constitutional reforms. The economist reported on international matters, such as raw materials, coaling stations, cable stations, tariffs and customs unions, free ports, open

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\*For further details see an article in *Geographical Review*, January, 1919.

ports; and on regional matters, such as industrial development, self-sufficiency, and traffic routes in relation to boundaries and material resources. The geographer reported on strategic frontiers and topographic barriers, and on economic factors such as irrigation, not only in their present development but as to their possibilities in a general reconstruction. The cartographer made maps and diagrams to visualize every kind of distribution, such as racial, linguistic, and religious boundaries; minerals, fuel, water power, railways and trade routes, crops and live stock.

The study of a question consisted primarily in the collecting of the essential facts; and secondarily in the sifting and collating of these facts so as to show their bearing upon any solution of a problem that might be proposed. The work had no political bias, the instructions given to the experts being to exercise fairness and to consider the interests of the peoples in the territories affected. This complete liberty of action gave unbiased results, and it is gratifying to know that the work of the American experts won high commendation from the various foreign delegations.

For its collaborators the Inquiry turned to the universities of the country, since it is the function of the universities not only to train experts, but to maintain high ideals of thoroughness and scholarly impartiality. The Inquiry did not confine itself to university faculties, however, but obtained the assistance of competent men without regard to university affiliations. Sometimes reports were requested from several different authorities, because on many questions there are not only two sides, but half a dozen.

The collaborators were not always at large universities, nor residents of large cities, and many of them could not leave their occupations to carry on research elsewhere. The Inquiry could not purchase the books they needed, partly because it lacked the money, but chiefly because of the impossibility of obtaining and storing so much material. The problem was complicated by the fact that the work had to

be done with as much secrecy as possible. It became necessary, therefore, to organize at headquarters a bibliographical service which should do for these scattered scholars what a regular library does for its own clients. To this end great assistance was given by the American Geographical Society, which placed its whole library and its library staff at the service of the Inquiry. Not only did it do this to the fullest extent, but it bought large numbers of books and maps for the use of the Inquiry, and it began and carried on a map-making program without precedent in this country. The American Geographical Society is, however, limited in scope and in funds, and a call upon other libraries for help soon became necessary. Of the outside libraries those upon which the greatest demands were made were the library of Columbia University and the New York Library. I put them alphabetically because it is impossible to say which rendered the greater service. Each purchased books that were needed, each provided special rooms for the research workers, and each gave reference service beyond measure. Columbia lent Miss Florence Wilson to become the assistant librarian of the Inquiry, and the American Library Association sent her to Paris to continue her work on the files she had cared for so well in New York. The cordial and unstinted assistance given by Dean Carpenter, Mr. Hicks, and Miss Mudge was only equaled by that so cheerfully given by Dr. Anderson, Mr. Lydenberg, and others of the New York Library staff. Outside of New York the greatest help was received from the Library of Congress. Dr. Putnam made more than one visit to the Inquiry, gave every facility for the use of the Library of Congress and procured and made available many books that could not otherwise be had. Princeton contributed Dr. Richardson himself, who not only made investigations in the Library of Congress and elsewhere, but prepared for the Inquiry many bibliographies that were of the utmost service. The list of coöperating libraries is a long one, and it is a great

pleasure to state that the librarians called upon went to extraordinary lengths in rendering service, giving their time and thought and energy, waiving rules whenever that was possible, and assenting willingly to the Government's requisitioning of books where the rules of their libraries made no provision for loans. I am particularly glad of the opportunity of stating that of the many hundreds of books from American libraries now in Paris for the use of the Peace Conference a large number bear the Harvard bookplate.

My paper has to deal, however, not only with the service rendered to the Government by the scholarly libraries of the country, but with the service they did *not* render. Research librarians are expected to provide the materials for literary edifices, but even with the best of good will they cannot make bricks without straw. It does not detract from the value of the service rendered by American libraries to say that in our national emergency our libraries were not equal to the demands made upon them, individually and collectively.

Consider some of the details of one or two of the topics I have named above, and picture the amount of help that would be given to an investigator of one of these topics in your own library or in any library known to you. Suppose that an inquirer were to ask for material on the Trentino, for the purpose of making a general ethnic, strategic, and economic study of the area from the Italian frontier of 1914 to the highest peaks in the north, and a detailed study of the disputed triangle at the conclusion of the Italian-Austrian negotiations of 1915, with special attention to the ethnic composition of the Bozen Valley, the position of the ridge crests, and the economic draining of the area? Suppose another were to ask for information on the ethnic composition, the economic affiliations, and the political relationships of Bosnia, with particular reference to the tongue of land from Ragusa to Volavitz? Suppose one were studying any of the disputed areas of the Bal-

kans—Epirus, Macedonia, Thrace, The Dobrudja, Pirot, Thasos, The Banat, the Maritza Valley? Suppose he were trying to draw topographical outlines of a possible internationalized area to include Constantinople and the Straits, and wanted the most recent and most accurate information about the administrative, military, and economic questions involved in its internationalization, including terminal and port facilities, police, sanitation, municipal administration, the ownership of the Bagdad Railway; and the relation of such an internationalized area to the Ottoman public debt? Each of the territorial questions had to be studied in just such detail, and in many cases the answers were not to be found in this country, and owing to war conditions could not be obtained. The best ethnographic study of Serbia, *e. g.*, is by Dr. Jovan Cvijic, a member of the Serbian Academy of Science, and was published by the Belgrade Academy in three parts. The first of these was translated into German and published as a supplement to *Petermanns Mitteilungen*. The second and third parts have never been done from the Serbian, and no copy of these two parts is in this country. Neither is any recent issue of the Turkish official year-book called *Salnameh*, unless indeed it be in the Turkish Embassy. The largest scale map of Persia is not here, and, worse still, its existence was unknown. The census returns of some of the belligerent countries are nowhere to be found; while the sets for other countries usually lack the latest volumes. If one wishes to check disputed national figures by the local church or school census returns, to see whether the national figures are falsified, the local returns are not available.

This regrettable condition of our scholarly libraries is well known to university librarians and to the librarians of other great research libraries, but the public is not aware of it, and there are many members of the American Library Association who do not realize it. The public library and the library of the small college provide books in the familiar lines of study,

and this work is done well; but when a reader wants to go beyond the ordinary books on a subject, or to make research in some unusual field, his progress at once becomes difficult and sometimes impossible. To arrive at a sound conclusion in any of the instances I have named, one must have the local histories and geographies, the local statistical and commercial handbooks, the more important local newspapers and magazines, the publications of the local scientific societies. We have not spent money and time on such local matters because we thought them merely local, and of no interest to us. We did not care whether certain districts in East Prussia were German or Polish; did not know what is involved in the ownership of the Briey district; did not understand the meaning of the Pan-Turanian movement. Yet these questions, and a hundred like them, are the questions that disturb the peace of the world. Even in our own hemisphere there are many danger-spots that may affect our national life. We cannot rid ourselves of these dangers by ignoring them. There are probably people in this audience who do not know where Tacna and Arica are, yet the question of their boundaries may at any time bring on a war in which the United States may have to share. I venture to say that there is no library in this country that

has the necessary material for determining the policy of the United States in regard to this and similar questions.

The truth is that the war found us as unprepared for making peace as for making war, and we were much worse off in mobilizing for peace, because many of our necessary materials were thousands of miles away, with little or no possibility of getting them. The formation of an enlightened American point of view on disputed questions was made difficult because we had not been foresighted. We have muddled through. But now that we are to take our full share of the burden of civilization, and help to mould the lives of millions of people with whom we have not hitherto been directly concerned, we must educate ourselves for our new duties. Our research libraries must provide the means of education on a scale much larger than has hitherto been thought necessary. They must also organize their material and their effort so that unnecessary duplication may be avoided, that what is lacking may be known and provided, and that the literary resources of the nation may be made available easily and quickly. Our national counsel to be of value, must be informed; and our national decisions, to be just, must be based upon knowledge.

#### TRAINING FOR THE LIBRARIAN OF A BUSINESS LIBRARY OR A BUSINESS BRANCH

By FRANK K. WALTER, *Vice-Director, New York State Library School, Albany, N. Y.*

The business librarian is both the embodied recognition of the practical value of libraries and of the expanding ideals of business. He is an indication that present day business is beginning to recognize that personal profit and public service are very closely connected. The competent business librarian need not renounce his claim to a business man's salary. This would probably make his employer think him lacking in ambition. He must, however, earn his salary by anticipating business

ideals as well as market conditions and he cannot do his work really well unless he believes in business as a conserving force in society.

The first step in suitable training is the selection of candidates with suitable personality. Many of the traits desirable for the business librarian are those desirable for any librarian or, indeed, for any socially minded citizen. He must have foresight and vision; he must know his field and be able to organize the material he